

The African Conquests

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and Morocco; he now advanced
eastwards with
30,000 Unitarians (Almohades) of the
fanatical
Berber breed, and the princes of the
Beni-Hammad
and the Ziridites were brought to bay.
A league
of all the Arab emirs and the tribes
from Con-
stantine to Tripoli armed themselves
for the life-
and-death struggle against the
newcomers, and it
is probable that they received
encouragement
from the King of Sicily. Their fighting
men went
out in the old Moslem style of chivalry,
resolved on
death or victory, and with all their
wives, children,
and wealth in their train; in the
mountains
of Setef (April, 1153) a three days'
battle took
place, the Almohades at last wiped out
the fighting
men, captured the camp, and sent the
women and
children captives into Morocco. The
Hammadites
of Bugia and the remnants of the
Ziridites fell
together.

Roger was not to see however the
consequences
of this war of brothers and at his death
his own
empire was unimpaired. The first King
of Sicily
holds a high place among those who
drove back
the Moslem power from its points of
vantage
about the Mediterranean in the
eleventh and
twelfth centuries; although no
Crusader himself,

he stands inferior to no Western prince
in the his-
tory of the wars between Christendom
and Islam.^x

¹ Roger, though he made no offer at any time
to carry[^]an
army to the relief of the Holy Land, at one time
contemplated a
crusade in Spain. In 1127, he negotiated with
Raymond III.,
Count of Barcelona, and offered fifty ships and his
personal assis-